

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing claims 6, 10, 14 and 15 in condition for allowance or materially reducing the number of issues for appeal. Applicants submit that the proposed amendments to claims 6, 10, 14 and 15 do not raise new issues or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner, since all of the elements and their relationships claimed were expressly or inherently recited by the claims as earlier examined.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 6, 10, 14 and 15 are pending in the application, each of which is an independent claim. Claims 1-5, 7-9, 11-13, 16 and 17 are sought to be canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the canceled subject matter. Claims 6 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

I. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (claims 1-4, 7-9 11-13 and 16)

Claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-13 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. *See* Advisory Action, page 1, paragraphs 7 and 10. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In furtherance of prosecution of this application and not in acquiescence to this or any rejection, claims 1-4, 7-9, 11-13 and 16 have been canceled. Applicants submit the rejection of these claims has been rendered moot and request that it be withdrawn.

II. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (claims 5 and 17)

Claims 5 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Soriano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,326,884). *See* Advisory Action, page 1, paragraphs 7 and 10. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In furtherance of prosecution of this application and not in acquiescence to this or any rejection, claims 5 and 10 have been canceled. Applicants submit the rejection to these claims has been rendered moot and request that it be withdrawn.

III. Allowable subject matter (claims 6, 10, 14 and 15)

The Examiner has objected to claims 6, 10, 14 and 15 for being dependent upon a rejected base claim. *See* Advisory Action, page 1, paragraph 7. The Examiner noted

claims 6, 10, 14 and 15 would be allowable if separately submitted, canceling the non-allowable claims. *See* Advisory Action, page 1, paragraph 4. Applicants respectfully disagree.

However, in furtherance of prosecution, claims 6, 10, 14 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit the claims are now in condition for allowance and request that the objection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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